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NEWS from the
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The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Regional Directors for Public Affairs and the States in their regions:

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Week of November 9, 1992

DISLOCATED WORKERS IN TWO STATES TO
RECEIVE $800,000 IN ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor is granting more than $800,000 to assist over 300 dislocated workers in two states.

States receiving the assistance are:

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| Wisconsin | $297,538 |
| Connecticut | 508,010 |

The funds for Wisconsin will assist dislocated farmers and their families, farm hands and farming industry workers dislocated due to a long-term trend of declining farms. The Western Wisconsin Private Industry Council will operate the project in a 22-county area of Western Wisconsin.

The award for Connecticut will assist workers dislocated due to the closure of the Weight Watchers Food Company in Hartford. The company is moving excess manufacturing capacity to plants in Ohio and Idaho. The Employment Resources Development Agency in Hartford will operate the project.

The grant, authorized under Title III of the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), will provide a number of services including assessment, job search assistance, remedial education, English as a Second Language, classroom training, on-the-job training and supportive services. Supportive services may include financial and personal counseling, day care and transportation assistance.

The dislocated worker program is a comprehensive approach to assisting workers who have been, or are about to be, laid off due to technological change, foreign competition or the permanent closing of a plant or facility. Training is also provided for workers who are unlikely to return to their previous industry or occupation and who have little prospect for local employment or re-employment.

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Week of November 9, 1992

MORE THAN $1.7 MILLION ANNOUNCED FOR
JOB TRAINING 2000 PROJECTS

WASHINGTON -- More than $1.7 million is being awarded to nine Private Industry Councils (PICs) across the country to conduct Job Training 2000 pilot projects, Secretary of Labor Lynn Martin has announced.

"These awards will pilot the Job Training 2000 concept, providing models and setting examples for other cities and counties," Martin said. "They will streamline the delivery of employment and training services, creating one-stop centers for information, advice and services to assist local citizens."

The PICs are located in Georgia, Minnesota, Indiana, California, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New York and Wisconsin, which is the only state receiving two grants.

Together, the PICs will participate in a 15-month project to test models for local skill centers, improved vocational training programs and other services to be offered under the proposed Job Training 2000 Act. Individual grants range from $145,000 to $200,000. A tenth state -- Michigan -- received a similar grant last week.

PICs are made up of representatives from business, industry, community organizations, education, local government and other sectors. They provide advice and help coordinate training programs to meet local labor market needs.

Job Training 2000 was announced by President Bush in January 1992 and submitted to Congress in April. Following the President's announcement, the Labor Department invited applications in a nationwide competition to fund demonstration projects.

The proposed Job Training 2000 federal legislation includes $50 million to streamline the current maze of more than 60 vocational education and job training programs administered by seven different federal agencies. It is also designed to ensure high-quality training opportunities.

At the heart of the proposal are plans to reform vocational training through one-stop skill centers for both workers and employers and a performance-based certification system to ensure all federally funded training programs meet uniformly high standards. Vocational training vouchers would allow participants more choice in their own training decisions.

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The skill centers would coordinate local delivery of more than $12 billion in vocational training programs currently provided through a range of programs. These include the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), Job Corps, the Employment Service, Job Opportunities and Basic Skills and many others.

PICs, which already coordinate JTPA programs at the local level, would play an expanded role under Job Training 2000, ensuring that all training providers meet high standards of quality as well as local labor market needs.

Under a system run by the PICs, vouchers will be used to allow greater choice in individual selection of vocational training programs.

Those most likely to benefit from Job Training 2000 include new labor force entrants who need training to succeed in the highly competitive workplace of today; low-income, low-skilled adults who need quality training opportunities for workplace success and unemployed and displaced workers who need retraining or placement assistance.

The Job Training 2000 initiative was developed by a joint working group of the Domestic Policy Council and the Council on Competitiveness, chaired by Secretary Martin.

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Week of November 9, 1992

U.S. PROVIDES MORE THAN $461,000
FOR WORKERS IN ALABAMA

WASHINGTON -- More than 100 workers in the state of Alabama are eligible for job training and other re-employment services totaling $461,479 under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, the U.S. Department of Labor has announced.

Workers laid off from a number of industries throughout the state will be provided with an array of services to enable them to re-enter the workforce. The companies include: Winning Moves, Inc., in Athens; Val Mode, Inc., in Prichard, Hispan Corp. in Decatur; Ampex Recording Media in Opelika, Snows Card and Gift in Birmingham; Nowsco Well Service in Cottondale; and Western Company in Tuscaloosa.

Authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, the TAA program provides weekly cash trade readjustment and retraining allowances to eligible workers laid off as a result of increased imports of foreign products.

Funds will be made available to the state employment security agency in Alabama, which will administer the assistance through its local offices.

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FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

By the year 2000, many companies with older workforces may find that their aging, higher-paid workers make them uncompetitive. This will be particularly true of companies in slowly growing industries or ones in which productivity is defined by production systems rather than by worker knowledge or skills, according to Workforce 2000, a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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By the year 2000, the job squeeze among middle-aged workers may become more intense. The large increase in the numbers of middle-aged workers may collide with corporate efforts to reduce middle-management or to reduce vulnerability to demographic noncompetitiveness, according to Workforce 2000, a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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By the year 2000, many industries that depend on young people for market growth will retrench. Higher education, household furnishings and rental housing construction could be most affected, according to Workforce 2000, a U.S. Labor Department publication.

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